

a unidirectional element, and
a transformer having a primary and a secondary
winding; and

a second circuit coupled to the secondary winding for
supplying current to the discharge lamp,

wherein the input terminal connected to the cathode of the voltage source during lamp operation is also directly connected to an end of the secondary winding, and

wherein the secondary winding, the input terminals,
and the second circuit are coupled together such that the
second circuit is supplied by a voltage whose amplitude is
equal to the sum of the first DC voltage and the second DC
voltage in order to transfer some power from the voltage
source directly to the second circuit without passing
through the transformer,

thereby avoiding power loss that would result if the
power directly transferred from the voltage source to the
second circuit were instead transferred to the second
circuit through the transformer.

REMARKS

All claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite because the added phrase "said secondary circuit through" is said to lack antecedent basis.

This added phrase actually has antecedent basis a few lines earlier at line 23. However, it does appear that this earlier reference at line 23 to "the secondary circuit" does lack a clear antecedent basis. Prior references were to a "second circuit" rather than a "secondary circuit". Therefore, it is proposed to change the three instances where "secondary circuit" is recited to --second circuit-- in order to provide clear antecedent basis. In view of this proposed change, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection would appear to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is said to be considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. It is proposed to rewrite Claim 7 in independent form. Furthermore, it is proposed to change the dependency of Claims 2 and 4 from Claim 1 to Claim 7, thereby apparently making Claims 2, 4-6 and 7 allowable.

This will apparently make only Claim 1 still subject to the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection based on STEVENS in view of TAP. It is proposed to amend Claim 1 to further distinguish over the cited combination.

TAP describes a circuit in which a DC-DC converter is connected such that the input voltage and output voltage are added together. However, the DC-DC converter described in TAP is a **self-oscillating circuit**, which means that the

drive signal for the switches is derived from the load current. In col. 1, lines 39-44, TAP explains that the feature that "the output direct current circuit contains the direct voltage supply source" **promotes the starting of the oscillator.**

The DC-DC converter in the subject invention is **not self-oscillating** but has a **separate control circuit** for rendering the switching element conducting and non-conducting. Because of the separate control circuit, the circuit of the invention does not suffer from any starting problems and the starting of the subject circuit is not promoted by the feature that "the output direct current circuit contains the direct voltage supply source". TAP fails to teach or suggest any other reason or motivation for making the output direct current circuit contain the direct voltage supply source. Accordingly, there is no teaching of a motivation or incentive to add this feature to any circuit where starting does not need to be promoted.

While Claim 1 already recited a control circuit coupled to the switching element for changing the conductive state of the switching element, which already infers that the switching element is not self-oscillating, it is proposed to amend Claim 1 so as to expressly recite that the switching element is --not self-oscillating-- and also that the control circuit is a --separate-- control

PHN 15-364

circuit to distinguish clearly over mere feedback being supplied to the switching element to make it self-oscillate, as in TAP.

CONCLUSIONS

It is believed that all of the pending claims fully meet all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and also distinguish readily over all of the cited art, when taken individually and in combination. Accordingly, allowance of the pending claims is believed to be in order and is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald L. Drumheller, Attorney
Registration No. 25,674

Ronald L. Drumheller
94 Teakettle Spout Road
Mahopac, NY 10541
Telephone: (914) 628-6090
Facsimile: (914) 628-6197